

Is Online a Good Match for My Student?

Counselors can help students determine if online learning is a good match.

It is very important for students' academic needs to be properly matched with their abilities and expectations of online learning. Academic advisors or counselors serving this function play a critical role. Advisors need to be well versed in the online learning environment and have access to a student's academic record.

Academic skill levels.

Online learning requires considerable reading, writing, and communication. Math and science courses further the challenge with complex subject matter. Academic performance and test scores can be used to identify any potential performance concerns prior to enrollment. Advisors must confirm that prerequisites have been met. Gaps can be addressed by having the student take a refresher course, arrange for a tutor, or choose a more appropriate course.

Learning style and expectations.

It is important for a student (and parent) to understand what kind of a learner he or she is and what online learning entails. With those baseline understandings, a student can identify what study behaviors need to be changed, arrange extra support, or perhaps, consider another learning option. Ideally, advisors explain this up front through a one-on-one session or informational group meetings. Students are encouraged to use internet resources such as success indicators and online learning preparedness quizzes to build self-awareness and confidence.

Student capacity and needs.

Consider factors in a student's learning environment that may adversely impact success, such as access to a computer/internet at home, support at home, health issues, or conflicting activities. Course load is also a factor.

We have shared a set of surveys and guides for students at <https://www.doe.in.gov/icap/online-learning-me>.